



NEWS RELEASE

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District: District 2
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIAN BARRIER INSTALLATION TO BEGIN ON STATE ROUTE 44

REDDING - The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will begin construction of the median barrier project located on State Route (SR) 44 from the Victor Avenue overcrossing to the end of the four lane freeway just east of the Airport Road Interchange in the City of Redding. The contractor for this \$5 million safety project is Tullis, Inc. of Redding and construction will begin on Monday, March 13, 2006.

Vehicle travel will be reduced to one lane in each direction during construction. These lane closures will be in effect Monday through Friday between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., except during peak travel times, with consideration given to regular commute hours. As construction progresses, night work may be necessary.

Although traffic volumes at that time the project was proposed were not at the level required for installation of a median barrier, plans were moved forward. Caltrans officials determined that increasing traffic, due to growth along the corridor, would likely warrant a barrier by the year 2006 or 2007. This project will eliminate the potential of head-on collisions, provide a wider paved median shoulder and further enhance safety by providing an area for emergency parking.

Criteria to place median barrier are judged by three methods:

1. The number of vehicles on the highway compared to the width of the median. Median barriers get approved for installation as traffic volumes increase where medians are narrow.
2. There is a history of median crossover head-on collisions.
3. Gap Closure where two segments of median barrier are currently in place and there are three miles or less left to complete the closure.

When this project was first proposed, the current, average daily traffic volume for this section of SR 44 was at 21,500 vehicles per day and projected to increase to 27,500 by the year of construction, meeting the threshold for installation of median barrier. The current traffic volume is at 33,500.

Motorists are asked to use caution in the work area and remember to "Slow for the Cone Zone". For more information on this project please the Public Information Office at (530) 225-3260.

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